

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-13 /081 W
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R 122118Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8516

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEHERAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 4987

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, DR, EG

SUBJ: DR OPENS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH EGYPT

REF: A) 75 SANTO DOMINTO 5521, B) SANTO DOMINGO 747,
C) SANTO DOMINGO 4851

1. ON OCTOBER 11, CHIEF UN REPRESENTATIVES OF DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND EGYPT SIGNED AGREEMENT OPENING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE NEW YORK SIGNING TOOK PLACE ONLY FIVE DAYS AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN DR AND MOROCCO (REFTEL C).

2. THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION OF WHETHER OR NOT RESIDENT AMBASSADORS WILL BE APPOINTED.

3. COMMENT: IN JANUARY DOMINICANS HAD COMPLETED ALL PREPARATIONS FOR SIGNING AN AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT, BUT AT LAST MOMENT DECIDED TO POSTPONE IT (REFTEL A). REASONS FOR THE DELAY AND DECISION TO OPEN RELATIONS NOW ARE UNCLEAR, BUT GODR HAS BEEN MANIFESTING INCREASING DESIRE TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH MORE MODERATE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WITH WHICH IT HAS HAD FEW TIES IN THE PAST.

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RUMORS ARE RIFE THAT DOMINCAN UN MISSION NOW DISCUSSING

OPENING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH IRAN.

4. ISRAELI EMBASSY HERE IS CONCERNED THAT THESE FORMAL RELATIONS WITH NEAR EASTERN STATES MAY PRESAGE A LESSING OF SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL WHICH COULD SHOW UP IN DOMINICAN VOTES AT THE UN. WE HAVE HAD NO INDICATION THAT PRESIDENT BALAGUER INTENDS VARY THE CONSISTENTLY PRO-ISRAELI POLICY HE HAD FOLLOWED IN THE PAST, THOUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB STATES MAY EVENTUALLY MOVE THE DR TOWARD LESS AUTOMATIC SUPPORT OF ISRAEL IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS.
AXELROD

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NNN

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